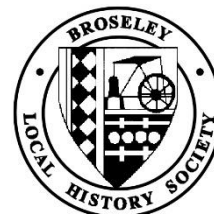


# NEWSLETTER

## Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



NOV 2019

### MEETINGS

Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Broseley Social Club, High Street, unless otherwise announced. Car parking is available at the back of the Club.

Members are requested to be seated by 7.30pm to allow our speakers a prompt start.

Visitors are welcome but are asked to give a donation towards Society funds.

### BLHS PROGRAMME

6<sup>th</sup>. Nov. "Both Sides of the River"- Joint meeting with the IGM Friends (Neil Clarke).

4<sup>th</sup>. Dec. Annual Dinner.

8<sup>th</sup>. Jan. The Shropshire Banking Fraud of 1856 (Jim Cooper)

5<sup>th</sup>. Feb. The Mayflower Children (Phil Revell)

4<sup>th</sup>. Mar. Annual Wilkinson Lecture – The World Turned Upside Down (Diana Clarke)

### What's on Elsewhere?

All the below are organised by **The Friends of The Ironbridge Gorge Museum** -

#### November 6<sup>th</sup>. 2019

*Both sides of the River: The Friends and the Broseley Local History Society* An entertaining talk by Neil Clarke and the annual joint meeting with Broseley Local History Society. 7.30pm in the Glass Classroom.

#### December 12<sup>th</sup> 2019

*Shedding light on Lightmoor* A talk by Harriet Devlin, 2.30pm in the Glass Classroom.

#### January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020

*The Severn Valley Railway Past and Present* A talk by Nick Ralls, new Chief Executive of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums 2.30pm in the Glass Classroom.

#### February 26<sup>th</sup> 2020

*Soldiers of Shropshire* A talk by Richard Gough, the Director of the Shropshire Regimental Museum 2.30pm in the Glass Classroom

#### February 29<sup>th</sup> 2020

*John Powell Day* (A previous member of Broseley Local History Society) A day of talks in memory of the late Museum librarian 10am - 4pm in the Glass Classroom. Tickets £5

#### March 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

*The history of the Kitchen Fireplace* From the open hearth to the Aga, via the kitchen range. A talk by David J Eveleigh 2.30pm in the Glass Classroom

#### April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

*Early images of the Ironbridge on ceramics.* A talk by David De Haan 7.30pm in the Glass Classroom

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The Society has received many requests to hold another "Open Day" similar to the one held two years ago. Therefore a repeat event has now been organised for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>. March. Further details will be available nearer the time.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Dawn Martin (Broseley)  
Tom & Hannah Cervenka (Broseley)  
Gill Hollox (Jackfield)

## SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Janet Robinson would like to remind members who have not paid their annual subscription since the Annual Meeting in October that the cost of membership is £7 for single membership and £12 for double membership. Could you please let Janet have your payment as soon as possible.

### Addendum to the Summer Outing to Hereford and the Hereford Cider Museum.

#### Michael Pope Writes-

I was extremely disappointed at not being able to join Society members on their Summer Outing to Hereford at the beginning of July. Hereford is my native city as I was brought up in the parish of Holmer some two miles to the north. Our house was surrounded by cider apple orchards where each October the fallen apples were raked out of the cowpats and put into large piles before being shovelled into trailers which were pulled by old Fordson tractors. It was said that the additions to the mounds of apples added flavour and colour to the final product. At a busy time, the tractors and trailers would stretch something like half a mile up the Leominster Road from the entrance to the Bulmer's factory which was situated adjacent to the Widemarsh Common. Readers will be pleased to know that on arrival at the factory the apples were weighed and then washed before being taken to the cider presses for the extraction of the juice. Be assured, you can still enjoy your glass of Bulmer's cider today!

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 'Dawley Girl writes book on Telford'

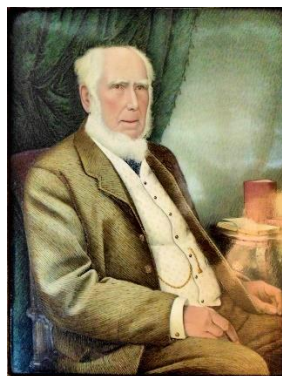
The title of this talk by Pat Bracegirdle was taken from a local newspaper report in 1973. Pat (then Pat Miles) was brought up in Dawley and attended Coalbrookdale High School. She met her future husband Brian Bracegirdle when they were both science lecturers at London's College of All Saints. They were also experienced photographers and industrial archaeology fieldworkers. They collaborated on a number of books on the subject,

including two in the 'Great Engineers & their Works' series published by David & Charles of Newton Abbot. The first in 1973 was on 'Thomas Telford', and a year later the second on 'The Darbys and the Ironbridge Gorge'.

In her talk Pat covered her early years in this area, including some family history, before going on to describe the work with her husband which resulted in the two books. The talk was well illustrated with photographs of industrial archaeology sites from over a wide area. She is now cataloguing the hundreds of negatives resulting from the expeditions made with her husband; these are housed at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum library.

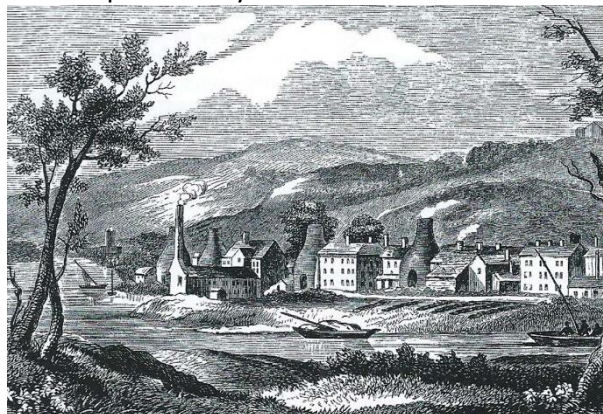
Neil Clarke 04.09.2019

### 'Coalport's Charismatic Painter of Birds'



Following the AGM John Willock began his illustrated talk by outlining the birth of John Randall at Ladywood Broseley, on September 1<sup>st</sup>. 1810. At the age of eighteen in 1828, Randall began his career in ceramic decoration at the Madeley factory operated by his uncle, Thomas Martin Randall.

After about five years at Madeley, John Randall sought employment at the Rockingham factory in Yorkshire. Subsequently he returned to Shropshire, possibly in about 1835, where he was employed at the Coalport factory.



COALPORT FACTORY

For the next forty-five years Randall painted predominantly bird subjects in both Sevres and naturalistic styles, becoming one of the highest paid and most celebrated of the Coalport artists - his work being exhibited at many International Expositions and elsewhere.

Apart from his successful career as a ceramic artist, Randall was an amateur geologist with a particular interest in the East Shropshire coalfields, his advice on such matters frequently being sought by commercial mining interests. He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1863.

From 1850 Randall became a writer and over the next fifty years he was a regular contributor to the *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, as well as being the author of several books and numerous articles on Shropshire history and topography. His final literary contribution was to the Arts and Industries Section of the Victoria History of Shropshire, published in 1908.

His other activities included being Postmaster for Madeley and a stationer, printer and publisher. Between the years 1874 -1880 John Randall represented Madeley as a Liberal Councillor for the Borough of Much Wenlock.

John Randall was twice married, both his wives predeceasing him. He had eight children by these marriages.

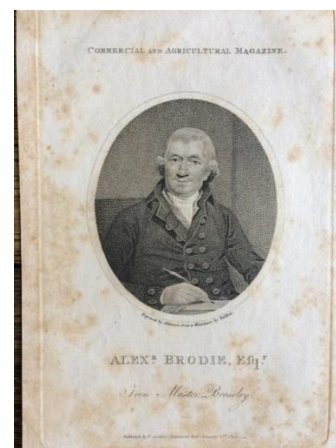
The long life of John Randall ended on November 16<sup>th</sup> 1910, at the age of just over 100 years. He was laid to rest at St Michael's Church, Madeley, amid much local mourning. Such was the life of John Randall, "Shropshire's Grand Old Man" and unparalleled painter of birds on porcelain.



**John Willock 02.10.2019**

**The Brodie Family Continued – Michael Pope writes:**

In two earlier editions of the Newsletter I drew readers attention to the Memorial in St. Mary's Church at Jackfield commemorating Alexander Brodie II who died on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1830 aged 66 years.



**Alexander Brodie II**

He had succeeded his uncle Alexander Brodie I who owned the Iron Foundry at The Calcutts, not far from the Church. The family originated from the Traquair Estate near Peebles where they had a small forge producing decorative Ironwork and other utility items for use on the Estate. The entrance gates to the Estate are still magnificent. In his lifetime Alexander Brodie I became an extremely wealthy man producing stoves and fire hearths for ships which he produced for over thirty years for the whole of the British Navy.

Towards the end of his life Alexander Brodie I determined to give something back to the area where he had been born and brought up. He therefore built a woollen mill in Innerleithen which was adjacent to the Traquair Estate between 1788 – 1790 at a cost of £3,000-00. As a result Innerleithen and the surrounding area became a thriving community in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. However, when I visited the area a few years ago I found that the mill was empty and closed and had been put up for sale.

On a recent visit to Broseley my daughter who lives in Peebles brought me a copy of their local newspaper. One of the headlines immediately caught my eye. It read – ‘Half of homes at Caerlean Mill site reserved on first weekend.’ It went on to state that at a recent sales launch, 22 of the two, three- and four-bedroom properties had been reserved by buyers. The Managing Director of the Company selling the homes is quoted as saying, “The development at the Mill is an incredible success story.” In another building on the site a Consortium aims to develop a mountain bike centre. The renowned Glendress mountain bike centre with a reputation for world class trails and facilities is just nearby. All this means that the local community is still benefitting from the legacy of the Brodie family.

I tell you all this because a few weeks ago an envelope was pushed through my letter box from Jonathan Elcock which contained an old postcard with a picture of Alexander Brodie II in suitable pose on it. I was delighted that we can now put a face to the man commemorated in a dark corner of St. Mary’s Church. Is it not time that his memorial should be moved from behind the organ and placed in the main body of the church!

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## **An Old Inhabitants Death**

### **WILLIAM ROWE (1860-1941)**

I have recently been updating and reviewing my family tree and came across this obituary of William Rowe (my 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 3 x removed – remote I know but he did live in Broseley!) and was amazed to find that together, father and son had worked at Broseley Tileries Ltd. for a total of over 100 years! Has anyone else discovered a similar record?

#### *“OLD INHABITANT’S DEATH*

*The death occurred on Friday last at 21 Church Street, Broseley of William Rowe, age 81. He was a native of Broseley and was for some years a member of the Old Volunteers. At the age of 12 he entered the service of the Broseley Tileries Ltd., and continued in their employ as a warehouseman for*

*over 60 years, retiring at the age of 75. His father was also in the service of the Tileries and the combined service of father and son with the firm, covered over 100 years. The late Mr. Rowe was a staunch churchman. He is survived by 3 daughters, his wife having died 35 years ago. The funeral took place at All Saints Church, Broseley on Wednesday afternoon, with internment at the cemetery. The Rev. C. S. Jackson (Rector) officiated. The principle mourners were: Mrs. Briscoe, Mr. & Mrs. H R Bradburn & Mrs. Hewlett (daughters & son-in-law); Master Ted Bradburn, grandson; the Misses M & J Rowe (nieces). Others present were, Mr. Allen, alderman E A Collins (rep. Broseley Tileries); Mr. A J Garbett, Mr. & Mrs. Hall, Mrs. B Jones, Miss L Garbett & Mrs. E Jones*

*The bearers were Messrs.: C Davies, V Aston, D Jones, R Taylor, J Roberts, & T Seabury.*

*Floral tributes were received from the following: ‘Lucy’, ‘Gert & Bert’, ‘Gladys & Jack’, Christine & Ted, Loue & family, Aunt Lizzie & the Girls, Mr. & Mrs. Walleth & Grandma, Mr. & Mrs. Hall, All at 22 & 24 Church St., ‘Belle’, Mr. & Mrs. Davies & family, 25 Church St., Mr. & Mrs. T. Meredith, the Misses A & M Taylor, “Cissie, Loue, Walter & Gert Reynolds, Mr. & Mrs. Salter, Friends at Woodside Coalbrookdale, Staff of Church of England Schools, Broseley, Mrs. Smallman & Joseph.*

**SHREWSBURY CHRONICLE August 1<sup>st</sup> 1941**

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## **Janet Doody**

### **Mailbox**

Dear Fellow Members,

As part of a piece of historical research (non-genealogical) into the fall of the Rowton meteorite in 1876, I would like to talk to any direct descendants of the following people:

1. **George Francis BROOKES** (sometimes Brooks), bn. 1851 in Much Wenlock. He married Elizabeth ADNEY in 1882 in Wellington RD. According to census records he was a farmer at Rowton, then at Shawbury, then for a brief period at High Offley (Staffs), before returning to Heygate Road, Wellington by 1911. He is believed to have died in 1927 in Wellington RD. He is believed to have had 7 children viz; John (b. 1883), Emma (b. 1884), Henry (b. 1886), Ellen (b. 1887), Margaret (b. 1889), George Adney (b. 1891), Beatrice (b. 1892). Henry was in the grocery business and may have died in 1968. He is believed to have

married Gladys L. ONIONS in 1921. They may have had 2 children: Francis H. BROOKES (b. 1931) and Joseph A. BROOKES (b. 1940). Henry & Gladys were living at 6 Watling St, Wellington in 1939.

2. **Samuel Harding ASHDOWN**, b. c. 1817 in Grindle, near Ryton (not Rowton), although he spent most of his life living at Uppington. He married Julia Priscilla GODBY in 1842, in Derby RD (I don't know why Derby; she was from Shifnal). He was an estate agent, valuer and acted as land agent for the Duke of Cleveland (who owned about 26,000 acres in Shropshire). By 1891 he seems to have retired to Bournemouth, Hampshire. One of his children was Augustus Harding ASHDOWN (b. c. 1850 in Uppington). He continued the estate agent's business and married Emmeline RIDER in 1883. By 1911, they had 8 children (1 of whom died), viz: Margaret (b. 1891), Violet Emmeline (b. 1899), Augusta Ruth (b. 1901), Roger Harding (b. 1904), Janet Maud (b. 1905), Marian Frances (b. 1913) + one other (untraced).

3. Further to the above please see this additional request:  
"In September 1894, a memorial window of painted glass in memory of Samuel Harding Ashdown, made by the London firm of Heaton, Butler & Bayne, was dedicated by the Archdeacon of Salop (Shropshire) and placed in Holy Trinity church, Uppington. As part of a piece of historical research, I would like to get a picture of this window. Does any BLHS member have one or could anyone living nearby obtain one, please? Ideally I would need to have permission to reproduce it in a small publication."

I am interested in tracing any letters or diaries dating from April 1876 and relevant to the fall of the meteorite. Brookes dug it up and, since it was on the Duke's land, it passed to Ashdown who was his land agent. It then passed to Nevil Story-Maskelyne at the British Museum, where it still resides. If anyone can help, please e-mail me on; [p.tandy@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:p.tandy@nhm.ac.uk) .

Many thanks.

## DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to those members who have indicated They would be happy to have electronic copies of the Newsletter. If there are any other members who would prefer it this way please contact the membership secretary, Janet Robinson, email:

[janet46.jr.jr@gmail.com](mailto:janet46.jr.jr@gmail.com)

Those of you would prefer to have it in its printed form can continue to look forward to receiving it through the post.

### Newsletter Editor:

Could I possibly ask all Contributors to this Newsletter to try their best to see that all content reaches myself during the last week of the month preceding publication. Email address is:

[mike.wallage@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.wallage@btinternet.com)

Mike Wallage

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chairman</i>	Gillian Pope
<i>Secretary</i>	Dot Cox
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Cooper
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Janet Robinson 26 Coalport Road Broseley TF12 5AZ 01952 882495
<i>Programme Secretary and Journal Editor</i>	Neil Clarke
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Mike Wallage
<i>Publicity</i>	Jennie Osborn Michael Pope Janet Doody Richard Sells Steve Dewhirst
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<i>Email</i>	<a href="mailto:steve@broseley.org.uk">steve@broseley.org.uk</a>

### **WANTED**

**A new Treasurer to the Society.  
Jim Cooper has moved to a new house  
and resigned the post at the AGM in  
October.**

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To see this Newsletter in full colour, visit the website at [www.broseley.org.uk](http://www.broseley.org.uk).

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**Christmas Dinner**  
**at**  
**The Lion Hotel Broseley**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019**  
**7.00pm for 7.30pm**

Please reserve me \_\_\_\_\_ place/places at a cost of £20 per head

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tele. \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose cheque/payment for £ \_\_\_\_\_

payable to Broseley Local History Society

**Please return to Janet Robinson**

26, Coalport Road, Broseley.TF12 5AZ

by **FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>. NOVEMBER 2019**

Please indicate your choice of starter and main course from the menu below. Give one tick for each person.

**STARTER**

**MAIN COURSE**

Blue cheese and broccoli soup \_\_\_\_\_

Roast Turkey with stuffing and cranberry sauce \_\_\_\_\_

Smoked salmon and prawn cocktail \_\_\_\_\_

Roast topside of beef with Yorkshire pudding and horseradish sauce \_\_\_\_\_

Melon with seasonal fruits \_\_\_\_\_

Salmon with parsley sauce \_\_\_\_\_

Game and Port pate (gluten free) \_\_\_\_\_

Courgette and brie crumble \_\_\_\_\_

Brie and red onion marmalade tart  
(gluten free) \_\_\_\_\_

Mediterranean vegetable tart (Vegan) \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas Pudding and brandy sauce

Or

A selection of desserts

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Coffee with mints

Please indicate any dietary requirements